FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
AND
DECISION RECORD
2015 Cedar City Field Office Weed Treatment
NEPA # DOI-BLM-UT-C010-2015-0029-DNA

FONSI: Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached Determination of NEPA Adequacy, and considering the significance criteria in 40 CFR 1508.27, I have determined that the 2015 Cedar City Field Office Weed Treatment will not have a significant effect on the human environment. An environmental impact statement is therefore not required.

DECISION: It is my decision to implement the weed control measures for the Cedar City Field Office for the 2015 calendar year, which involves a combination of weed inventory, application of approved herbicides and manual control methods and monitoring treatments. The Proposed Action is fully described in 2015-0029-DNA. I have determined that implementation of this weed control work is in the public interest. This decision is contingent upon meeting all stipulations and monitoring requirements listed below.

Stipulations: Project stipulations are extensive. They are derived from the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States and ROD dated 09/29/2007. Washington Office IM 2008-030 instructs that any new weed treatment measures on public lands incorporate the Standard Operating Procedures, Conservation Measures, etc. from the PEIS. Additionally, local stipulations were developed as needed and included with those that were directed in the IM. A complete list of standard stipulations is found in Appendices 3 and 4 of the DNA. It is also stipulated that weed control proposed within WSA's, Red Rock Wilderness bill proposals, and areas determined to possess wilderness characteristics be accessed using existing vehicle routes and by foot for weed infestations located away from vehicle routes. Locally important Conservation Measures which have been developed to protect sensitive species are included below.

Mitigation Measures: In addition to the stipulations discussed above, site specific Conservation / mitigation measures were developed to assure the protection of specific endangered and sensitive species. Maps depicting where the Conservation Measures will be applied are contained in Appendix 5. The Conservation Measures that will be followed are as follow:

1. No herbicides containing 2,4-D are authorized for use within Utah prairie dog habitat. Off road vehicles are also restricted as indicated on the maps in Appendix 5.

2. If previously unknown prairie dog colonies are located during spray operations, operations will cease and BLM will be notified immediately.

3. Proposed treatment areas were reviewed for potential impacts to Utah prairie dogs. Appropriate restrictions on treatment methods are proposed to resolve potential impacts.

4. Mexican spotted owls (MSOs) are known to occur near weed treatment polygons which are located in Spring Creek Canyon within the Spring Creek Canyon WSA. Weed treatment proposed for the treatment polygons in MSO habitat are accessing them by foot and using hand tools or pulling the weeds (no herbicides). An email was sent to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on 02/19/2015, requesting concurrence with BLM's "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" finding. Concurrence will be received before implementation of the proposed action.

5. New infestations of weeds found outside of the core areas shown on Appendix 2 would be treated by manual hand grubbing methods if they are a manageable size. If the newly discovered infestation is too large, inaccessible, etc. to treat manually, newly discovered areas would simply be inventoried and mapped. NEPA analysis and treatment of the newly discovered site would be postponed until potential impacts to Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive (TES) species or their habitat could be properly assessed and appropriate mitigation / conservation measures identified.

Monitoring: Approximately 80 percent of the work to be completed will be done by contractors. Sites will be monitored by the applicators with followup inspection by crew supervisors and by BLM weed specialists / BLM Project Inspectors. Focus of short term monitoring efforts will be effectiveness of the treatments, compliance with stipulations and mitigations and documenting any observed effects on non-target species. GPS data will be collected for all sites inventoried or treated. Long term monitoring will include "trend" data of each weed population (ie whether individual population is getting smaller or larger) and follow up rangeland health assessments, primarily associated with future grazing permit renewals.

RATIONALE: The decision to authorize the weed treatments has been made in consideration of the environmental impacts of the proposed action, as well as consideration of the impacts of not treating the weed infestation problem. Noxious weeds are rapidly encroaching on native vegetation and wildlife habitats and to not allow the treatments would contribute to additional acreages not supporting diverse, desirable vegetation and wildlife populations and therefore not meeting rangeland health standards. Minimum impact treatments are proposed. The herbicides to be utilized are safe when used according to EPA label instructions. Herbicides are to be used in minimum amounts necessary for effective treatment. Broadcast treatments would rarely, if ever be used and only in areas where there would be no threat to sensitive species, such as the Milford Flat Fire Rehabilitation area. The preferred method is always spot treatments of individual weeds or manual control. The action is in conformance with the Pinyon Management Framework Plan (MFP), approved 06/01/83 and with the Cedar / Beaver / Garfield / Antimony (CBGA) Resource Management Plan (RMP), which was approved 10/01/86. The proposed action is in conformance with the LUPs, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the LUP objectives of improving degraded resource conditions (see DNA for more detail). It also is consistent with the Beaver, Iron and Washington County Master Plans which support compliance with local and state laws for weed control. Weed boards in all three counties support this action. This decision is also consistent with the Federal Noxious Weed Control Act of 1974 as is the authority for this action.

The No Action Alternative was not selected because noxious weeds are a threat to the human environment across the field office area because of the rapid rates by which they spread. No action would be particularly adverse to habitats for sensitive species and would negatively affect

the productivity of rangelands throughout the field office. Biological controls are not present across the landscape for many of these noxious weeds because they are not native to the local environment. It was determined that this proposed action of localized herbicide application and manual treatment methods could be accommodated with minimal impacts to the environment.

This NEPA action was posted as proposed on the BLM website on February 13th, 2015. No comments were received.

APPEAL: This decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of the Secretary, in accordance with the regulations contained in 43 CFR Part 4. Within 30 days of this decision, a notice of appeal must be filed in the office of the Authorized Officer at 176 E. DL Sargent Dr., Cedar City, UT, 84721. If a statement of reasons for the appeal is not included with the notice, it must be filed with the Interior Board of Land Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy St., Suite 300, Arlington, VA 22203 within 30 days after the notice of appeal is filed with the Authorized Officer.

If you wish to file a petition for stay pursuant to 43 CFR Part 4.21(b), the petition for stay should accompany your notice of appeal and shall show sufficient justification based on the following standards:

1. The relative harm to the parties if the stay is granted or denied,
2. The likelihood of the appellant's success on the merits,
3. The likelihood of irreparable harm to the appellant or resources if the stay is not granted, and
4. Whether the public interest favors granting the stay.

If a petition for stay is submitted with the notice of appeal, a copy of the notice of appeal and petition for stay must be served on each party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken, and with the IBLA at the same time it is filed with the Authorized Officer.

A copy of the notice of appeal, any statement of reasons and all pertinent documents must be served on each adverse party named in the decision from which the appeal is taken and on the Office of the Regional Solicitor, U.S. Department of the Interior, 6201 Federal Building, 125 South State Street, Salt Lake City, Utah 84138-1180, not later than 15 days after filing the document with the Authorized Officer and/or IBLA.

Dan Fletcher — 2-19-15

Authorized Officer — Date

Worksheet
Documentation of Land Use Plan Conformance and Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)

U.S. Department of the Interior
Utah Bureau of Land Management (BLM)

A. BLM Office: Cedar City Field Office
Tracking Number: DOI-BLM-CO10-2015-0029-DNA
Proposed Action Title/Type: 2015 Cedar City Field Office Weed Treatment
Location of Proposed Action: Field Office-wide

Description of the Proposed Action: The Cedar City Field Office of the Utah's Color Country District proposes to control noxious weeds primarily through manual (hand grubbing and pulling) and direct spot treatments of herbicide. The proposal would also allow for the infrequent treatment of other invasive (non-noxious) weeds on a case by case basis in problem areas (e.g. white horehound in sage grouse leks, puncture vine in parking lots, etc.) with proper site examinations. Backpack sprayers, ATV's, UTV's and four wheel drive pickup trucks would be utilized for spot applications of herbicides where allowed. The project is consistent with treatment techniques described in previous environmental documentation and has been reviewed against those environmental documents contained in section C of this DNA. Appendix 1 contains the resource review of the ID team for this proposal. Techniques and methods are proposed to be applied across the field office area with the emphasis on "core areas" illustrated on the maps in Appendix 2. Approximately 2,100 public land acres are included in the core areas, which would need to be searched and weeds treated. It is likely that in 2015, funding limitations will not allow treatment of all 2,100 acres.

The proposal includes treatments of weeds on the boundaries of or within Wilderness Study Areas, the Red Rock Wilderness proposal and lands found by ID teams to possess wilderness characteristics. Weeds within each of these areas would be treated from existing, open roads or trails where possible or walked to and treated with either spot spraying from backpack sprayers or by hand methods as described below.

Hand grubbing involves simply pulling the weed or using hand tools such as shovels and polaskis to sever the root from the individual plants just below ground surface. Surface disturbance would be held to the minimum needed to complete the work. The majority of the treatments should begin approximately April 15, 2015 and continue until about July 30, 2015. Some follow-up treatments may be completed as late as September 30, depending on weed growth following monsoonal rains. Below are proposed herbicides and application rates that have been previously analyzed and found acceptable for use in previous NEPA documents, which are listed in section C of this DNA. It should be noted that since the site specific noxious

weed control Environmental Assessment (EA #UT-044-96-15) was written for the field office area, some of the trade names may have changed due to patents expiring, etc., but active ingredients remain the same. No chemicals would be used for which a Pesticide Use Proposal (PUP) has not been approved.

Weedmaster, KambaMaster (Dicamba + 2,4-D). Intended rates: 1.5-2 pts/ac. product at rosette or bolting stage; higher rates of up to 5.2 pts/ac may be necessary for spot treatments of actively growing thistle. (.19 lb acid equivalent (ae)/ac Dicamba + .54lb ae/ac 2,4-D to .65 lb ae/ac Dicamba + 1.9 lbs ae/ac 2,4-D); no more than 5.2 pts would be applied in any treated acre. Maximum rate: The maximum allowable rate of application is 5.2 pts/acre/year (0.65 lb AE/acre/yr Dicamba + 1.9 lbs ae/acre/yr 2,4-D) and no more than 4 pts/ac (0.5 lb ae/acre Dicamba + 1.4 lbs ae/ac 2,4-D) in any single treatment.

Tordon 22K, Outpost 22k (Picloram). Intended rates: 2 pints/ac. for primary target species (scotch thistle, bull thistle, black henbane), but up to 4 pints may need to be utilized to be effective against other noxious weeds, such as toadflax or Russian knapweed, if found. Maximum rate: The maximum allowable rate of application 4 pints/acre/yr

Escort XP, Patriot (Metsulfuron Methyl). Intended rate: up to 1.67 oz/acre/year of product, which is equivalent to 0.104 lbs/ac/yr (0.063 lbs active ingredient (AI)/ac/yr). Maximum rates: a) rights of way/industrial sites: 2.0 oz/ac/yr of product (1.2 oz or 0.075 lbs AI/ac/yr); b) rangeland sites: 1.67 oz/acre/year of product (1.0 oz or 0.063 lbs AI/ac/yr).

Adjuvants to be mixed with the chemicals and water are Induce and Spec 90/10. Adjuvants are materials that improve the emulsifying, dispersing, spreading, wetting, or other surface modifying properties of liquids. In the case of these adjuvants, they allow less herbicide to be used to obtain more even and full coverage of the leaf surface than would be possible by using the same herbicide without an adjuvant. Highlight dye is also added to the herbicide mix to aid in visibility of the application and help assure weeds get a single coverage.

Herbicides would be applied subject to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) [source: Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States (PEIS), September, 2007] and Conservation Measures (2007 PEIS) found in Appendices 3 and 4, respectively. The SOPs include application according to EPA labels at the minimum rates necessary for the control needed. Notable Conservations Measures are captured in maps contained in Appendix 5.

- No herbicides containing 2,4-D are authorized for use within Utah prairie dog habitat, as depicted on maps in Appendix 5. Off road vehicles are also restricted as indicated on the maps.
- If previously unknown prairie dog colonies are located during spray operations, operations will cease and BLM will be notified immediately.
- Proposed treatment areas were reviewed for potential impacts to Utah prairie dogs. Appropriate restrictions on treatment methods are proposed to resolve potential impacts.
- Mexican spotted owls (MSOs) are known to occur near weed treatment polygons which are located in Spring Creek Canyon within the Spring Creek Canyon WSA. Weed

treatment proposed for the treatment polygons in MSO habitat are to access them by foot and use hand tools or pull the weeds (no herbicides). A memorandum was sent to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on February 19, 2015, requesting concurrence with BLM's "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" finding. Concurrence will be received before implementation of the proposed action.

- New infestations of weeds found outside of the core areas shown on Appendix 2 would be treated by hand grubbing methods if they are a manageable size. If the newly discovered infestation is too large, inaccessible, etc. to treat by hand grubbing, newly discovered areas would simply be inventoried and mapped. NEPA analysis and treatment of the newly discovered site would be postponed until potential impacts to Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive (TES) species or their habitat could be properly assessed and appropriate mitigation / conservation measures identified.

Applicant (if any): USA Bureau of Land Management

B. Conformance with the Land Use Plan (LUP) and Consistency with Related Subordinate Implementation Plans

LUP Name: Pinyon Management Framework Plan (MFP) Date Approved: 06/01/83
LUP Name: Cedar / Beaver / Garfield / Antimony (CBGA) Resource Management Plan (RMP) Date Approved: 10/01/86

The proposed action is in conformance with the LUPs, even though it is not specifically provided for, because it is clearly consistent with the following LUP objectives:

Pinyon MFP: Range Management objectives RM-1 through 3 because they state rangelands are to be maintained, improved, or degrading conditions are to be halted on all rangelands within the planning unit. Wildlife objective 1 discusses the need to improve high priority wildlife habitat. Watershed objective 1 discusses the need to reduce wind and water erosion by improving or maintaining soil stability and productivity.

CBGA RMP: Wildlife objectives include improving habitat in poor condition and protecting against the loss of habitat. Soils objectives include avoiding deterioration of watershed conditions on all federal lands. Range management objectives are to maintain or improve or at the very least, to stop deterioration of rangeland conditions.

The objectives of these two plans are very similar and all objectives are possible with healthy stands or desirable vegetation, but not with increasing levels of noxious weed invasion. Therefore, the proposed action is clearly consistent with land use plan objectives.

C. Identify the applicable NEPA document(s) and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

List by name and date all applicable NEPA documents that cover the proposed action:

Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), Vegetation Treatment on BLM Lands in the Thirteen Western States, May 1991 and the Utah Record of Decision (ROD), July, 1991.

EA #UT-044-96-15, Noxious Weed Control (for what is now called the Cedar City Field Office), and FONSI / Decision Record dated 03/26/1996.

Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS), Vegetation Treatments Using Herbicides on Bureau of Land Management Lands in 17 Western States and ROD dated 09/29/2007. Washington Office IM 2008-030 instructs that any new weed treatment measures on public lands incorporate the Standard Operating Procedures, Conservation Measures, etc. from the PEIS.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the current proposed action substantially the same action (or is a part of that action) as previously analyzed?

_X_ Yes

___ No

Documentation of answer and explanation: The herbicides proposed to be used [Weedmaster, KambaMaster (Dicamba + 2, 4-D), Tordon 22K, Outpost 22K (Picloram), Escort XP, Patriot (Metsulfuron methyl)] have all been site specifically analyzed in the supporting NEPA documentation. Rates of application have been examined and were found to be consistent with current EPA labels. An interdisciplinary team has reviewed the proposal and found that the proposed action is consistent with the previous analysis. Places of use for individual chemicals are consistent with those previously analyzed. Potential impacts to T & E species are required to be reviewed annually prior to treatment. This DNA incorporates state of the art Standard Operating Procedures and Conservations Measures and allows for development of any additional protective measures needed. If additional protective measures are identified, they appear in Section F. of this DNA.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the current proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, resource values, and circumstances?

_X_ Yes

___ No

Documentation of answer and explanation: The range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA documents is appropriate. While a narrow range of alternatives was analyzed in the Environmental Assessment a number of alternatives were analyzed in the PEIS. The proposed action is consistent with, and in compliance with both documents and their respective DR and ROD. There are no new current issues or concerns.

3. Is existing analysis adequate in light of any new information or circumstances (including, for example, riparian proper functioning condition [PFC] reports; rangeland health standards assessments; Unified Watershed Assessment categorizations; inventory and monitoring data; most recent Fish and Wildlife Service lists of threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species; most recent BLM lists of sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that all new information and all new circumstances are insignificant with regard to analysis of the proposed action?

_X_ Yes

___ No

Documentation of answer and explanation: Existing analysis is adequate. The appropriate DR and ROD have established that T&E species occurrence in relation to the proposed weed treatment actions for that respective year is to be examined annually. Sensitive species will also be examined. Numerous rangeland health assessments (RLH) and riparian PFC reports have been completed which document noxious weeds as a continuing problem which detracts from meeting RLH standards. Implementation of the proposed action would assist in meeting RLH standards where weeds have been identified as detracting. Weed inventories across the field office area are evidence that weeds, particularly Scotch and bull thistles, have expanded their range substantially since 2010 and could threaten productivity and long-term success of the rehabilitation effort if not controlled. Utah prairie dog habitat has been mapped within or adjacent to several proposed weed treatment areas. Consultation with USF&WS has occurred the past several years and mitigations developed have been carried forward. Treatment of other TES species habitat is included and mitigations are proposed within the text of the DNA. The proposed action will not be implemented until concurrence is received.. In the long term, properly mitigated weed treatment is beneficial to TES species. Weeds can degrade habitat quality, compete with and at times cause the loss of desirable vegetation, and potentially cause a site to become unsuitable or unable to support TES species.

4. Do the methodology and analytical approach used in the existing NEPA documents(s) continue to be appropriate for the current proposed action?

_X_ Yes

___ No

Documentation of answer and explanation: The existing NEPA documents are sufficient for supporting approval of the proposed action. The chemicals and methods proposed to be utilized in the current action have been analyzed specifically in both the EA and EIS. No valid new technologies or modeling methods exist that would provide alternative assessment techniques, proposed actions or solutions.

5. Are the direct and indirect impacts of the current proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)? Do the existing NEPA documents analyze impacts related to the current proposed action at a level of specificity appropriate to the proposal (plan level, programmatic level, project level)?

_X_ Yes

___No

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes, the direct and indirect impacts are essentially the same as those analyzed under the existing NEPA documents. Annual review is being completed for those resources which have a tendency to change over time. New information will be considered prior to implementation and any new or additional protective measures are included in Section F. Current policy directs that any new weed treatment measures on public lands incorporate the Standard Operating Procedures, Conservation Measures, etc. from the PEIS to ensure minimization of impacts.

6. Are the reasonably foreseeable cumulative impacts that would result from implementation of the proposed action substantially unchanged from those identified in the existing NEPA document(s)?

_X_ Yes

___No

Documentation of answer and explanation: Cumulative impacts and the analysis thereof would not be expected to change as a result of implementing the current proposed action. No cumulative impacts were identified as a result of the original proposed action. See also Interdisciplinary Team Review Record (Attachment 1).

7. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

_X_ Yes

___No

Documentation of answer and explanation: Yes. The proposal has been ongoing annually for several years and there has typically not been a lot of interest in weed treatment as long as it is conducted in an environmentally responsible manner and is effective at controlling weeds. It is nearly universally recognized that weed populations are growing at an alarming rate in the west, putting ecosystems at risk and that efforts are needed to reduce the spread.

E. Interdisciplinary Analysis: Identify those team members conducting analysis or participating in the preparation of this worksheet.

Name	Title	Resource(s) Represented
Jessica Bulloch (team lead)	Range Technician	weeds
Jeff Reese	Range Specialist	Air quality, farmlands, grazing, Rangeland health and upland vegetation
Jack Sathe	Forester	Woodlands
Dave Jacobson	Outdoor Recreation Planner	ACEC's, wild and scenic rivers, Wilderness / WSA's, recreation, wilderness characteristics
Jamie Palmer	Archeologist	Cultural resources and Native American consultation
Chad Hunter	Wild Horse Specialist	Wild horses
Sheri Whitfield	Wildlife Biologist	TES plants, TES animals, Fish and Wildlife
Randy Peterson	Occupational Safety	Hazardous wastes
Adam Stephens	Rangeland Management Specialist	Wetlands / riparian, soils and water quality
Ed Ginouves	Mining Engineer	Geology, minerals, energy, Paleontology
Michelle Campeau	Realty Specialist	Lands and access
Melanie Mendenhall	Natural Resource Specialist	Fuels and fire management

F. Mitigation Measures: List any applicable mitigation measures that were identified, analyzed, and approved in relevant LUPs and existing NEPA document(s). See the Proposed Action and Appendices 3 and 4 for mitigation measures from existing NEPA documents.

Additional measures which were identified during development and review of the proposed action are as follow:

- No herbicides containing 2,4-D are authorized for use within Utah prairie dog habitat, as depicted on maps in Appendix 5. Off road vehicles are also restricted as indicated on the maps.
- If previously unknown prairie dog colonies are located during spray operations, operations will cease and BLM will be notified immediately.
- Mexican spotted owls (MSOs) are known to occur near weed treatment polygons in Spring Creek Canyon within the Spring Creek Canyon WSA. Weed treatment proposed for the treatment polygons in MSO habitat are accessing them by foot and using hand tools or pulling the weeds (no herbicides). A memorandum was sent to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on February 19, 2015, requesting concurrence with BLM's "Not Likely to Adversely Affect" finding. Concurrence will be received before implementation.
- New infestations of weeds found outside of the core areas shown on Appendix 2 would be treated by hand grubbing methods if they are a manageable size. If the newly discovered infestation is too large, inaccessible, etc. to treat by hand grubbing, newly discovered areas would simply be inventoried and mapped. NEPA analysis and treatment of the newly discovered site would be postponed until potential impacts to Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive (TES) species or their habitat could be properly assessed and appropriate mitigation/conservation measures identified.

CONCLUSIONS
Based on the review documented above, I conclude that:

Plan Conformance:

- ☑ This proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan.
- ☐ This proposal does not conform to the applicable land use plan

Determination of NEPA Adequacy

- ☑ The existing NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of NEPA.
- ☐ The existing NEPA documentation does not fully cover the proposed action. Additional NEPA documentation is needed if the project is to be further considered.

Dan Foth
Signature of the Authorized Officer

2-19-15
Date

ATTACHMENTS:

Appendix 1: Resource Review / ID Team Checklist
Appendix 2: Project and Treatment area maps
Appendix 3: Standard Operating Procedures for use of herbicides
Appendix 4: Conservation Measures for Threatened, Endangered and Candidate species
Appendix 5: Special Status Species Conservation Measures

INTERDISCIPLINARY TEAM NEPA CHECKLIST

Project Title: 2015 Weed Treatment DNA

NEPA Log Number: DOI-BLM-CO10-2015-0029-DNA

File/Serial Number:

Project Leader: Jessica Bulloch

DETERMINATION OF STAFF: ***(Choose one of the following abbreviated options for the left column)***

NP = not present in the area impacted by the proposed or alternative actions
NI = present, but not affected to a degree that detailed analysis is required
PI = present with potential for relevant impact that need to be analyzed in detail in the EA
NC = (DNAs only) actions and impacts not changed from those disclosed in the existing NEPA documents cited in Section D of the DNA form. The Rationale column may include NI and NP discussions.

RESOURCES AND ISSUES CONSIDERED:

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NC	Air Quality	Air quality in the area is good and is in attainment with NAAQS. Proposal is limited to spot treatment with herbicides with very infrequent broadcast spraying, all subject to label, including wind restrictions. There would be some short-term odor lingering for two to three days, but impacts to air quality would be negligible.	J. Reese	2/17/15
NP	Areas of Critical Environmental Concern	None within Field Office boundaries.	Dave Jacobson	2-17-2015
NC	Cultural Resources	The nature of this action is such that no impact can be expected on significant cultural resources. No additional cultural resource inventory or work is needed.	Jamie Palmer	2/19/2015
NI	Greenhouse Gas Emissions	The project proposal involves burning fossil carbon based fuels access to weed areas and the release of greenhouse gases (ghgs). Ongoing research has identified the potential effects of ghg emissions (including CO2, methane, nitrous oxide, water vapor and several trace gases) on global climate. The release of these gases during service activities is cumulative with other local, regional (such as operation of motor vehicles in Southwest Utah) and global releases. However, the lack of scientific tools to predict climate change on regional or local scales limits the ability to quantify potential future impacts as a result of this singular project or cumulatively with other activities within the analysis area with any confidence. Minimization of ghgs would be accomplished by use of walking and ATV's instead of trucks and by limiting vehicle trips to the fewest possible.	J. Reese	2/17/15
NC	Environmental Justice	Previous analysis is adequate	J. Reese	2/17/15
NC	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	Previous analysis is adequate.	J. Reese	2/17/15
NI	Fish and Wildlife	The weed treatment area contains crucial and substantial summer/winter mule deer habitat. Yearlong habitat for pronghorn and elk. Wild turkey, ring-necked pheasant, chukar, blue grouse and band-tailed pigeon have been identified to occur within the project treatment area.	S. Whitfield	02/18/15

Determination	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NC	Farmlands (Prime or Unique)	Previous analysis is adequate.	J. Reese	2/17/15
NC	Fuels/Fire Management	Previous analysis adequate. The activities associated with the proposed action will not affect fire/fuels management activities in the project area.	M. Mendenhall	2/17/15
NC	Geology / Mineral Resources/Energy Production	Previous analysis adequate. The activities associated with proposed action will not substantially affect mineral resources or energy production activities in the proposed project area.	Ed Ginouves	2/13/15
NI	Hydrologic Conditions	Hydrologic conditions were discussed in EA #UT-044-96-15 under the soil resource and were adequately covered for the purposes of the proposed action.	A. Stephens	2/18/15
NC	Invasive, Non-native Species	No changes from previous analysis. Noxious weeds would be impacted by the proposal as desired to meet the purpose and need from previous NEPA analysis.	Jessica Bulloch	2/13/15
NC	Lands/Access	Previous analysis adequate.	Michelle Campeau	02/13/15
NC	Livestock Grazing	Livestock are often absent from grazing allotments during herbicide application periods. Some herbicides have restrictions on grazing for 30-90 days after spraying. However, the spraying within the CCFO area would be plant specific (spot spraying). The plants that are sprayed are not plants that livestock would normally graze. Previous analysis adequate all other issues.	J. Reese	2/17/15
NI	Migratory Birds	At the project level, evaluate the effects of the BLM's actions on migratory birds and where take reasonable attributable to agency actions may have a measurable negative effect on migratory bird populations, focusing on species of concern, priority habitats, and key risk factors. Since the weed treatment will be implemented during the migratory bird nesting season, it is likely that there is the potential for take, however it is not expected to affect migratory bird populations.	S Whitfield	02/18/15
NI	Native American Religious Concerns	Consultation with the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah was conducted by Rachel Tueller on 02/05/10. The Tribe reviewed the project and has no objection to the project going forward.	Jamie Palmer	2/19/2015
NC	Paleontology	Previous analysis adequate. The activities associated with proposed action will not substantially affect any paleontological resources that may be present in the proposed project area.	Ed Ginouves	2/13/15
NI	Rangeland Health Standards and Guidelines	RLH was not analyzed in the 1996 EA as there was no requirement to do so at that time. Recent RLH assessments throughout the field office area have infrequently indicated that noxious weeds contribute towards an allotment's inability to meet RLH standards. The proposed action would contribute towards allowing a small number of allotments to move towards meeting RLH standards across the field office by reducing density, cover, frequency, occurrence, etc. of noxious weeds.	J. Reese	2/17/15
NC	Recreation	Previous analysis adequate.	Dave Jacobson	2-17-2015
NC	Socio-Economics	Previous analysis is adequate.	J. Reese	2/17/15

Determi-nation	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NC	Soils	Previous analysis adequate.	A Stephens	2/18/15
NI	Special Status Plant Species	There are 3 candidate plant species that occur within the CCFO, however those plant species are endemic to the Frisco Peak area where no treatments are proposed. Polygon 507 has been identified for treatment and within Penstemon pinorum habitat, a BLM special status plant species. Adequate mitigations include manual treatments (hand cutting / pulling target species only).	J. Reese	2/17/15
NI	Special Status Animal Species	Proposed treatment areas were reviewed for potential impacts to Utah prairie dogs. Appropriate restrictions on treatment methods are proposed to resolve potential impacts. Mexican spotted owls are located near weed treatment polygons 166, 167 and 168. An email was sent to the FWS on 3/11/13 requesting agreement with our NLAA finding. California condors utilizing the treatment areas within Iron and Beaver Counties, there are no known concentration areas within the CCFO. The treatment area is identified to occur within areas of greater sage grouse brood-rearing, winter and occupied habitat. The treatment area is not expected to occur within Western yellow-billed cuckoo, woundfin, virgin river chub habitat. Pinto Creek and Duncan Creek is potential habitat for the Southwestern willow flycatcher. The treatment areas have been identified as potential habitat for ferruginous hawk, bald eagle, burrowing owl, and kit fox. The treatment areas have been proposed with identified pygmy rabbit burrow locations. Please see attached map for identified hand-cutting areas for the pygmy rabbit.	S. Whitfield	02/18/15
NC	Wastes (hazardous or solid)	Previous analysis adequate. By adhering to the SOPs, the public and environment would be protected from spills or other threats concerning hazardous wastes.	Randy Peterson	2/13/15
NC	Water Resources/Quality (drinking/surface/ground)	Previous analysis adequate. By adhering to SOP's (which require following EPA label restrictions and adequate buffers, live waters would be protected from contamination.	J. Reese	2/17/15
NC	Wetlands/Riparian Zones	Previous analysis is adequate	A. Stephens	2/18/15
NP	Wild and Scenic Rivers	None within Field Office boundaries.	Dave Jacobson	2-17-2015
NC	Wilderness/WSA	Previous analysis adequate.	Dave Jacobson	2-17-2015

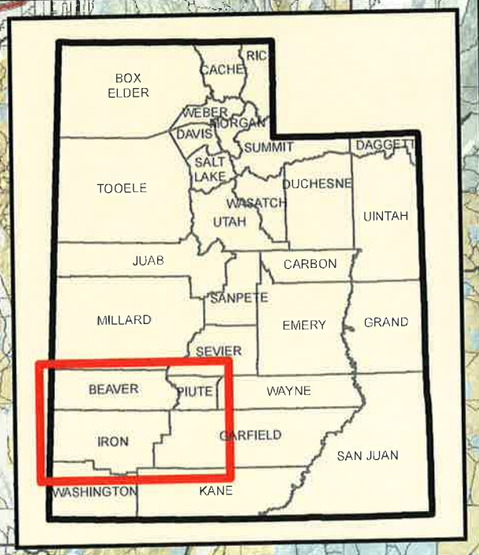
Determi-nation	Resource	Rationale for Determination	Signature	Date
NC	Woodland / Forestry	Previous analysis adequate.	J. Sathe	2-19-2015
NC	Vegetation	In general, desirable upland vegetation would be expected to benefit from weed eradication treatments because competition with these highly competitive species would be reduced. Some individual non-target broadleaf plants may be impacted from drift of herbicides. Mitigations are in place to assure no sensitive species are impacted.	J. Reese	2/17/15
NC	Visual Resources	Previous analysis adequate.	Dave Jacobson	2-17-2015
NC	Wild Horses and Burros	Some herbicides have restrictions on grazing for 30-90 after spraying. However, the spraying within the CCFO area would be plant specific or spot sprayed. The plants that are sprayed are not plants that wild horses would graze. Previous analysis adequate all other issues.	C. Hunter	2/18/15
NI	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics	Lands with Wilderness Characteristics were not analyzed in the 1996 EA. The type of invasive species treatment identified in the proposed action would have no impact on wilderness characteristics; therefore the previous analysis is still adequate.	Dave Jacobson	2-17-2015

FINAL REVIEW:

Reviewer Title	Signature	Date	Comments
Environmental Coordinator	[illegible]	2/19/15	
Authorized Officer	[illegible]	2-19-15	

BLM Cedar City Field Office
2015 Weed Contract Areas

Bureau of Land Management
U.S. Department of the Interior



Western Beaver

Eastern Beaver

Beaver County

Iron County

Western Beaver

Milford

Minersville

Beaver

Cedar City

Parowan

Modena

T25S T26S T27S T28S T29S T30S T31S T32S T33S T34S T35S T36S T37S T38S T39S

R20W R19W R18W R17W R16W R15W R14W R13W R12W R11W R10W R9W R8W R7W R6W R5W R4.5W R4W R3W R2W R1W R1E R2E

Contract Area
Weed Infestation Areas (4,791 Acres)
BLM In House (2,067 Acres)
Out (69 Acres)

Land Status
BLM
Private
State

This product may not meet BLM standards for accuracy and content. Different data sources and input scales may cause some misalignment of data layers.

Projection: UTM, Zone 12 North
Datum: North American Datum of 1983 (NAD83)
Cedar City Field Office, GIS
March 6, 2015

Map Scale
1:375,000

10 5 0 10
Miles

APPENDIX 3

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES FOR APPLYING HERBICIDES

Resource Element	Standard Operating Procedure
Guidance Documents	BLM Handbook H-9011-1 (*Chemical Pest Control*); and manuals 1112 (*Safety*), 9011 (*Chemical Pest Control*), 9012 (*Expenditure of Rangeland Insect Pest Control Funds*), 9015 (*Integrated Weed Management*), and 9220 (*Integrated Pest Management*)
General	• Prepare spill contingency plan in advance of treatment. • Conduct a pretreatment survey before applying herbicides. • Select herbicide that is least damaging to environment while providing the desired results. • Select herbicide products carefully to minimize additional impacts from degradates, adjuvants, inert ingredients, and tank mixtures. • Apply the least amount of herbicide needed to achieve the desired result. • Follow product label for use and storage. • Have licensed applicators apply herbicides. • Use only USEPA-approved herbicides and follow product label directions and "advisory" statements. • Review, understand, and conform to the "Environmental Hazards" section on the herbicide label. This section warns of known pesticide risks to the environment and provides practical ways to avoid harm to organisms or to the environment. • Consider surrounding land use before assigning aerial spraying as a treatment method and avoid aerial spraying near agricultural or densely populated areas. • Minimize the size of application areas, when feasible. • Comply with herbicide-free buffer zones to ensure that drift will not affect crops or nearby residents/landowners. • Post treated areas and specify reentry or rest times, if appropriate. • Notify adjacent landowners prior to treatment. • Keep copy of Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDSs) at work sites. MSDSs available for review at http://www.cdms.net/. • Keep records of each application, including the active ingredient, formulation, application rate, date, time, and location. • Avoid accidental direct spray and spill conditions to minimize risks to resources. • Consider surrounding land uses before aerial spraying. • Avoid aerial spraying during periods of adverse weather conditions (snow or rain imminent, fog, or air turbulence). • Make helicopter applications at a target airspeed of 40 to 50 miles per hour (mph), and at about 30 to 45 feet above ground. • Take precautions to minimize drift by not applying herbicides when winds exceed >10 mph (>6 mph for aerial applications) or a serious rainfall event is imminent. • Use drift control agents and low volatile formulations. • Conduct pre-treatment surveys for sensitive habitat and special status species within or adjacent to proposed treatment areas. • Consider site characteristics, environmental conditions, and application equipment in order to minimize damage to non-target vegetation. • Use drift reduction agents, as appropriate, to reduce the drift hazard to non-target species. • Turn off applied treatments at the completion of spray runs and during turns to start another spray run. • Refer to the herbicide label when planning revegetation to ensure that subsequent vegetation would not be injured following application of the herbicide. • Clean OHVs to remove seeds.
Air Quality See Manual 7000 (*Soil, Water, and Air Management*)	• Consider the effects of wind, humidity, temperature inversions, and heavy rainfall on herbicide effectiveness and risks. • Apply herbicides in favorable weather conditions to minimize drift. For example, do not treat when winds exceed 10 mph (6 mph for aerial applications) or rainfall is imminent. • Use drift reduction agents, as appropriate, to reduce the drift hazard. • Select proper application equipment (e.g., spray equipment that produces 200- to 800-micron diameter droplets [spray droplets of 100 microns and less are most prone to drift]). • Select proper application methods (e.g., set maximum spray heights, use appropriate buffer distances between spray sites and non-target resources).

Soil See Manual 7000 (*Soil, Water, and Air Management*)	• Minimize treatments in areas where herbicide runoff is likely, such as steep slopes when heavy rainfall is expected. • Minimize use of herbicides that have high soil mobility, particularly in areas where soil properties increase the potential for mobility. • Do not apply granular herbicides on slopes of more than 15% where there is the possibility of runoff carrying the granules into non-target areas.
Water Resources See Manual 7000 (*Soil, Water, and Air Management*)	• Consider climate, soil type, slope, and vegetation type when developing herbicide treatment programs. • Select herbicide products to minimize impacts to water. This is especially important for application scenarios that involve risk from active ingredients in a particular herbicide, as predicted by risk assessments. • Use local historical weather data to choose the month of treatment. Considering the phenology of the target species, schedule treatments based on the condition of the water body and existing water quality conditions. • Plan to treat between weather fronts (calms) and at appropriate time of day to avoid high winds that increase water movements, and to avoid potential stormwater runoff and water turbidity. • Review hydrogeologic maps of proposed treatment areas .Note depths to groundwater and areas of shallow groundwater and areas of surface water and groundwater interaction. Minimize treating areas with high risk for groundwater contamination.. • Conduct mixing and loading operations in an area where an accidental spill would not contaminate an aquatic body. • Do not rinse spray tanks in or near water bodies. Do not broadcast pellets where there is danger of contaminating water supplies. • Maintain buffers between treatment areas and water bodies. Buffer widths should be developed based on herbicide- and site-specific criteria to minimize impacts to water bodies. • Minimize the potential effects to surface water quality and quantity by stabilizing terrestrial areas as quickly as possible following treatment.
Wetlands and Riparian Areas	• Use a selective herbicide and a wick or backpack sprayer. • Use appropriate herbicide-free buffer zones for herbicides not labeled for aquatic use based on risk assessment guidance, with minimum widths of 100 feet for aerial, 25 feet for vehicle, and 10 feet for hand spray applications.
Vegetation See Handbook H-4410-1 (*National Range Handbook*), and manuals 5000 (*Forest Management*) and 9015 (*Integrated Weed Management*)	• Refer to the herbicide label when planning revegetation to ensure that subsequent vegetation would not be injured following application of the herbicide. • Use native or sterile species for revegetation and restoration projects to compete with invasive species until desired vegetation establishes • Use weed-free feed for horses and pack animals. Use weed-free straw and mulch for revegetation and other activities. • Identify and implement any temporary domestic livestock grazing and/or supplemental feeding restrictions needed to enhance desirable vegetation recovery following treatment. Consider adjustments in the existing grazing permit, needed to maintain desirable vegetation on the treatment site.
Pollinators	• Complete vegetation treatments seasonally before pollinator foraging plants bloom. • Time vegetation treatments to take place when foraging pollinators are least active both seasonally and daily. • Design vegetation treatment projects so that nectar and pollen sources for important pollinators and resources are treated in patches rather than in one single treatment. • Minimize herbicide application rates. Use typical rather than maximum rates where there are important pollinator resources. • Maintain herbicide free buffer zones around patches of important pollinator nectar and pollen sources. • Maintain herbicide free buffer zones around patches of important pollinator nesting habitat and hibernacula. • Make special note of pollinators that have single host plant species, and minimize herbicide spraying on those plants (if invasive species) and in their habitats.
Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms See manuals 6500 (*Wildlife and Fisheries Management*) and 6780 (*Habitat Management Plans*)	• Use appropriate buffer zones based on label and risk assessment guidance. • Minimize treatments near fish-bearing water bodies during periods when fish are in life stages most sensitive to the herbicide(s) used, and use spot rather than broadcast or aerial treatments. • Use appropriate application equipment/method near water bodies if the potential for off-site drift exists. • For treatment of aquatic vegetation, 1) treat only that portion of the aquatic system necessary to achieve acceptable vegetation management; 2) use the appropriate application method to minimize the potential for injury to desirable vegetation and aquatic organisms; and 3) follow

	water use restrictions presented on the herbicide label.
Wildlife See manuals 6500 (*Wildlife and Fisheries Management*) and 6780 (*Habitat Management Plans*)	• Use herbicides of low toxicity to wildlife, where feasible. • Use spot applications or low-boom broadcast operations where possible to limit the probability of contaminating non-target food and water sources, especially non-target vegetation over areas larger than the treatment area. • Use timing restrictions (e.g., do not treat during critical wildlife breeding or staging periods) to minimize impacts to wildlife. • Avoid using glyphosate formulations that include R-11 in the future, and either avoid using any formulations with POEA, or seek to use the formulation with the lowest amount of POEA available, to reduce risks to amphibians.
Threatened, Endangered, and Sensitive Species See Manual 6840 (*Special Status Species*)	• Survey for special status species before treating an area. Consider effects to special status species when designing herbicide treatment programs. • Use a selective herbicide and a wick or backpack sprayer to minimize risks to special status plants. • Avoid treating vegetation during time-sensitive periods (e.g., nesting and migration, sensitive life stages) for special status species in area to be treated.
Livestock See Handbook H-4120-1 (*Grazing Management*)	• Whenever possible and whenever needed, schedule treatments when livestock are not present in the treatment area. Design treatments to take advantage of normal livestock grazing rest periods, when possible. • As directed by the herbicide label, remove livestock from treatment sites prior to herbicide application, where applicable. • Use herbicides of low toxicity to livestock, where feasible. • Take into account the different types of application equipment and methods, where possible, to reduce the probability of contamination of non-target food and water sources. • Avoid use of diquat in riparian pasture while pasture is being used by livestock. • Notify permittees of the project to improve coordination and avoid potential conflicts and safety concerns during implementation of the treatment. • Notify permittees of livestock grazing, feeding, or slaughter restrictions, if necessary. • Provide alternative forage sites for livestock, if possible.
Wild Horses and Burros	• Minimize using herbicides in areas grazed by wild horses and burros. • Use herbicides of low toxicity to wild horses and burros, where feasible. • Remove wild horses and burros from identified treatment areas prior to herbicide application, in accordance with label directions for livestock. • Take into account the different types of application equipment and methods, where possible, to reduce the probability of contaminating non-target food and water sources.
Cultural Resources and Paleontological Resources See handbooks H-8120-1 (*Guidelines for Conducting Tribal Consultation*) and H-8270-1 (*General Procedural Guidance for Paleontological Resource Management*), and manuals 8100 (*The Foundations for ManagingCultural Resources*), 8120 (*Tribal Consultation Under Cultural Resource Authorities*), and 8270 (*Paleontological Resource Management*), See also: *Programmatic Agreement among the Bureau of Land Management, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation*	• Follow standard procedures for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act as implemented through the *Programmatic Agreement among the Bureau of Land Management, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers Regarding the Manner in Which BLM Will Meet Its Responsibilities Under the National Historic Preservation Act* and state protocols or 36 CFR Part 800, including necessary consultations with State Historic Preservation Officers and interested tribes. • Follow BLM Handbook H-8270-1 (*General Procedural Guidance for Paleontological Resource Management*) to determine known Condition I and Condition 2 paleontological areas, or collect information through inventory to establish Condition 1 and Condition 2 areas, determine resource types at risk from the proposed treatment, and develop appropriate measures to minimize or mitigate adverse impacts. • Consult with tribes to locate any areas of vegetation that are of significance to the tribe and that might be affected by herbicide treatments. • Work with tribes to minimize impacts to these resources. • Follow guidance under Human Health and Safety in areas that may be visited by Native peoples after treatments.

Officers Regarding the Manner in Which BLM Will Meet Its Responsibilities Under the National Historic Preservation Act.	
Visual Resources See handbooks H-8410-1 (*Visual Resource Inventory*) and H-8431-1 (*Visual Resource Contrast Rating*), and manual 8400 (*Visual Resource Management*)	• Minimize the use of broadcast foliar applications in sensitive watersheds to avoid creating large areas of browned vegetation. • Consider the surrounding land use before assigning aerial spraying as an application method. • Minimize off-site drift and mobility of herbicides (e.g., do not treat when winds exceed 10 mph; minimize treatment in areas where herbicide runoff is likely; establish appropriate buffer widths between treatment areas and residences) to contain visual changes to the intended treatment area. • If the area is a Class I or II visual resource, ensure that the change to the characteristic landscape is low and does not attract attention (Class I), or if seen, does not attract the attention of the casual viewer (Class II). • Lessen visual impacts by: 1) designing projects to blend in with topographic forms; 2) leaving some low-growing trees or planting some low-growing tree seedlings adjacent to the treatment area to screen short-term effects; and 3) revegetating the site following treatment. • When restoring treated areas, design activities to repeat the form, line, color, and texture of the natural landscape character conditions to meet established Visual Resource Management (VRM) objectives.
Wilderness and Other Special Areas See handbooks H-8550-1 (*Management of Wilderness Study Areas (WSAs)*), and H-8560-1 (*Management of Designated Wilderness Study Areas*), and Manual 8351 (*Wild and Scenic Rivers*)	• Encourage backcountry pack and saddle stock users to feed their livestock only weed-free feed for several days before entering a wilderness area. • Encourage stock users to tie and/or hold stock in such a way as to minimize soil disturbance and loss of native vegetation. • Revegetate disturbed sites with native species if there is no reasonable expectation of natural regeneration. • Provide educational materials at trailheads and other wilderness entry points to educate the public on the need to prevent the spread of weeds. • Use the "minimum tool" to treat noxious and invasive vegetation, relying primarily on use of ground-based tools, including backpack pumps, hand sprayers, and pumps mounted on pack and saddle stock. • Use chemicals only when they are the minimum method necessary to control weeds that are spreading within the wilderness or threaten lands outside the wilderness. • Give preference to herbicides that have the least impact on non-target species and the wilderness environment. • Implement herbicide treatments during periods of low human use, where feasible. • Address wilderness and special areas in management plans. • Maintain adequate buffers for Wild and Scenic Rivers (¼ mile on either side of river, ½ mile in Alaska).
Recreation See Handbook H-1601-1 (*Land Use Planning Handbook, Appendix C*)	• Schedule treatments to avoid peak recreational use times, while taking into account the optimum management period for the targeted species. • Notify the public of treatment methods, hazards, times, and nearby alternative recreation areas. • Adhere to entry restrictions identified on the herbicide label for public and worker access. • Post signs noting exclusion areas and the duration of exclusion, if necessary. • Use herbicides during periods of low human use, where feasible.
Social and Economic Values	□□Consider surrounding land use before selecting aerial spraying as a method, and avoid aerial spraying near agricultural or densely-populated areas. • Post treated areas and specify reentry or rest times, if appropriate. • Notify grazing permittees of livestock feeding restrictions in treated areas, if necessary, as per label instructions. • Notify the public of the project to improve coordination and avoid potential conflicts and safety concerns during implementation of the treatment. • Control public access until potential treatment hazards no longer exist, per label instructions. • Observe restricted entry intervals specified by the herbicide label. • Notify local emergency personnel of proposed treatments. • Use spot applications or low-boom broadcast applications where possible to limit the probability of contaminating non-target food and water sources, especially vegetation over areas larger than the treatment area. • Consult with Native American tribes and Alaska Native groups to locate any areas of vegetation that are of significance to the tribe and that might be affected by herbicide treatments. • To the degree possible within the law, hire local contractors and workers to assist with herbicide application projects and purchase materials and supplies, including chemicals, for herbicide

	treatment projects through local suppliers. • To minimize fears based on lack of information, provide public educational information on the need for vegetation treatments and the use of herbicides in an Integrated Pest Management program for projects proposing local use of herbicides.
Rights-of-way	• Coordinate vegetation management activities where joint or multiple use of a ROW exists. • Notify other public land users within or adjacent to the ROW proposed for treatment. • Use only herbicides that are approved for use in ROW areas.
Human Health and Safety	• Establish a buffer between treatment areas and human residences based on guidance given in the HHRA, with a minimum buffer of ¼ mile for aerial applications and 100 feet for ground applications, unless a written waiver is granted. • Use protective equipment as directed by the herbicide label. • Post treated areas with appropriate signs at common public access areas. • Observe restricted entry intervals specified by the herbicide label. • Provide public notification in newspapers or other media where the potential exists for public exposure. • Have a copy of MSDSs at work site. • Notify local emergency personnel of proposed treatments. • Contain and clean up spills and request help as needed. • Secure containers during transport. • Follow label directions for use and storage. • Dispose of unwanted herbicides promptly and correctly.

Appendix 4
Conservation Measures (BA)

Species/Site Identification as Listed in the Biological Assessment	Conservation Measure
General	• The BLM will identify appropriate application methods, including rate, time, and mode of application (source characterization) for projects involving the use of herbicides. • The BLM will use interactive spreadsheets developed during preparation of the Forest Service and BLM ERAs to determine estimates of chemical exposure for species of interest for herbicide applications in the action area. First, the TEP species will be sorted into the ERA surrogate classes based on food and shelter requirements and taxonomic similarity. Information on the chemical characteristics of the herbicide, mode and rate of application, and local environmental conditions (e.g., soil type, rainfall) are also entered into the spreadsheet to calculate the exposure value. These values can then be compared to a table listing risk levels to determine the potential for an acute or chronic risk to the species of interest. Risk levels for TEP species are provided in the ERA and in the following chapters. • The BLM will incorporate mitigation and conservation measures identified in the ERAs and BA, and from analysis of exposure levels based on modeling, to eliminate or reduce risks to TEP species. It is possible that conservation measures would be less restrictive than those listed in subsequent sections of this BA if local site conditions were evaluated using the ERAs when developing project-level conservation measures. • The BLM will use herbicides in a manner that is consistent with labeling instructions, design criteria, and any issued reasonable and prudent measures with terms and conditions to ensure that unlawful taking of an ESA-listed species does not occur. In the event incidental take is likely as a result of the action, the Biological Opinion (BO) will include an incidental take statement that exempts the BLM from the prohibitions of take under Section 9 of the ESA.
Plants	Required Steps include the Following: • A survey of all proposed action areas within potential habitat by a botanically qualified biologist, botanist, or ecologist to determine the presence/absence of the species. • Establishment of site-specific no activity buffers by a qualified botanist, biologist, or ecologist in areas of occupied habitat within the proposed project area. To protect occupied habitat, treatment activities would not occur within these buffers. • Collection of baseline information on the existing condition of TEP plant species and their habitats in the proposed project area. • Establishment of pre-treatment monitoring programs to track the size and vigor of TEP populations and the state of their habitats. These monitoring programs would help in anticipating the future effects of vegetation treatments on TEP plant species. • Assessment of the need for site revegetation post treatment to minimize the opportunity for noxious weed invasion and establishment. At a minimum, the following must be included in all management plans: • Given the high risk for damage to TEP plants and their habitat from burning, mechanical treatments, and use of domestic animals to contain weeds, none of these treatment methods should be utilized within 330 feet of sensitive plant populations UNLESS the treatments are specifically designed to maintain or improve the existing population. • Off-highway use of motorized vehicles associated with treatments should be avoided in suitable or occupied habitat. • Biological control agents (except for domestic animals) that affect target plants in the same genus as TEP species must not be used to control target species occurring within the dispersal distance of the agent. • Prior to use of biological control agents that affect target plants in the same family as TEP species, the specificity of the agent with respect to factors such as physiology and morphology should be evaluated, and a determination as to risks to the TEP species made. • Post-treatment monitoring should be conducted to determine the effectiveness of the project. In addition, the following guidance must be considered in all management plans in which herbicide treatments are proposed to minimize or avoid risks to TEP species. The exact conservation measures to be included in management plans would depend on the herbicide that would be used, the desired mode of application, and the conditions of the site. Given the potential for off-site drift and surface runoff, populations of TEP species on lands not administered by the BLM would need to be considered if they are located near proposed herbicide treatment sites. • Herbicide treatments should not be conducted in areas where TEP plant species may be subject to direct spray by herbicides during treatments. • Applicators should review, understand, and conform to the "Environmental Hazards" section on herbicide labels (this section warns of known pesticide risks and provides practical ways to avoid harm to organisms or the environment). • To avoid negative effects to TEP plant species from off-site drift, surface runoff, and/or wind erosion, suitable buffer

Plants – cont.	zones should be established between treatment sites and populations (confirmed or suspected) of TEP plant species, and site-specific precautions should be taken (refer to the guidance provided below). • Follow all instructions and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to avoid spill and direct spray scenarios into aquatic habitats that support TEP plant species. • Follow all BLM operating procedures for avoiding herbicide treatments during climatic conditions that would increase the likelihood of spray drift or surface runoff. The following conservation measures refer to sites where broadcast spraying of herbicides, either by ground or aerial methods, is desired. Manual spot treatment of undesirable vegetation can occur within the listed buffer zones if it is determined by local biologists that this method of herbicide application would not pose risks to TEP plant species in the vicinity. Additional precautions during spot treatments of vegetation within habitats where TEP plant species occur should be considered while planning local treatment programs, and should be included as conservation measures in local-level NEPA documentation. The buffer distances provided below are conservative estimates, based on the information provided by ERAs, and are designed to provide protection to TEP plants. Some ERAs used regression analysis to predict the smallest buffer distance to ensure no risks to TEP plants. In most cases, where regression analyses were not performed, suggested buffers extend out to the first modeled distance from the application site for which no risks were predicted. In some instances the jump between modeled distances was quite large (e.g., 100 feet to 900 feet). Regression analyses could be completed at the local level using the interactive spreadsheets developed for the ERAs, using information in ERAs and for local site conditions (e.g., soil type, annual precipitation, vegetation type, and treatment method), to calculate more precise, and possibly smaller buffers for some herbicides. **2,4-D** • Because the risks associated with this herbicide were not assessed, do not spray within ½ mile of terrestrial plant species or aquatic habitats where TEP aquatic plant species occur. • Do not use aquatic formulations in aquatic habitats where TEP aquatic plant species occur. • Assess local site conditions when evaluating the risks from surface water runoff to TEP plants located within ½ mile downgradient from the treatment area. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species. **Bromacil** • Do not apply within 1,200 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • If using a low boom at the typical application rate, do not apply within 100 feet of an aquatic habitat in which TEP plant species occur. • If using a low boom at the maximum application rate or a high boom, do not apply within 900 feet of an aquatic habitat in which TEP plant species occur. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species. **Chlorsulfuron** • Do not apply by ground methods within 1,200 feet of terrestrial TEP species. • Do not apply by aerial methods within 1,500 feet of terrestrial TEP species. • Do not apply by ground methods within 25 feet of aquatic habitats where TEP plant species occur. • Do not apply by aerial methods at the maximum application rate within 300 feet of aquatic habitats where TEP plant species occur. • Do not apply by aerial methods at the typical application rate within 100 feet of aquatic habitats where TEP plant species occur. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species. **Clopyralid** • Since the risks associated with using a high boom are unknown, use only a low boom during ground applications of this herbicide within ½ mile of terrestrial TEP plant species or aquatic habitats in which TEP plant species occur. • Do not apply by ground methods at the typical application rate within 900 of terrestrial TEP species. • Do not apply by ground methods at the typical application rate within ½ mile of terrestrial TEP species. • Do not apply by aerial methods within ½ mile of terrestrial TEP species. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species.

Plants – cont.	**Dicamba** • If using a low boom at the typical application rate, do not apply within 1,050 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • If using a low boom at the maximum application rate, do not apply within 1,050 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • If using a high boom, do not apply within 1,050 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • Do not apply within 25 feet of aquatic habitats where TEP plant species occur. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species. **Diflufenzopyr** • If using a low boom at the typical application rate, do not apply within 100 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • If using a high boom, or a low boom at the maximum application rate, do not apply within 900 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • If using a high boom, do not apply within 500 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • Do not apply within 25 feet of aquatic habitats where TEP plant species occur. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species. **Diquat** • Do not use in aquatic habitats where TEP aquatic plant species occur. • Do not apply by ground methods within 1,000 feet of terrestrial TEP species at the maximum application rate. • Do not apply by ground methods within 900 feet of terrestrial TEP species at the typical application rate. • Do not apply by aerial methods within 1,200 feet of terrestrial TEP species. **Diuron** • Do not apply within 1,100 feet of terrestrial TEP species. • If using a low boom at the typical application rate, do not apply within 900 feet of aquatic habitats where TEP aquatic plant species occur. • If using a high boom, or a low boom at the maximum application rate, do not apply within 1,1000 feet of aquatic habitats where TEP aquatic plant species occur. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species. **Fluridone** • Since effects on terrestrial TEP plant species are unknown, do not apply within ½ mile of terrestrial TEP species. **Glyphosate** • Since the risks associated with using a high boom are unknown, use only a low boom during ground applications of this herbicide within ½ mile of terrestrial TEP plant species. • Do not apply by ground methods at the typical application rate within 50 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • Do not apply by ground methods at the maximum application rate within 300 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • Do not apply by aerial methods within 300 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. **Hexazinone** • Since the risks associated with using a high boom or an aerial application are unknown, only apply this herbicide by ground methods using a low boom within ½ mile of terrestrial TEP plant species and aquatic habitats that support aquatic TEP species. • Do not apply by ground methods at the typical application rate within 300 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species or aquatic habitats that support aquatic TEP plant species. • Do not apply by ground methods at the maximum application rate within 900 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species or aquatic habitats that support aquatic TEP plant species. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species. **Imazapic** • Do not apply by ground methods within 25 feet of terrestrial TEP species or aquatic habitats where TEP plant species occur. • Do not apply by helicopter at the typical application rate within 25 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species.

Plants – cont.	• Do not apply by helicopter at the maximum application rate, or by plane at the typical application rate, within 300 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • Do not apply by plane at the maximum application rate within 900 feet of terrestrial TEP species. • Do not apply by aerial methods at the maximum application rate within 300 feet of aquatic TEP species. • Do not apply by aerial methods at the typical application rate within 100 feet of aquatic TEP species. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species. **Imazapyr** • Since the risks associated with using a high boom are unknown, use only a low boom for ground applications of this herbicide within ½ mile of terrestrial TEP plant species or aquatic habitats in which TEP plant species occur. • Do not apply at the typical application rate, by ground or aerial methods, within 900 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species or aquatic habitats in which aquatic TEP species occur. • Do not apply at the maximum application rate, by ground or aerial methods, within ½ mile of terrestrial TEP plant species or aquatic habitats in which aquatic TEP species occur. • Do not use aquatic formulations in aquatic habitats where TEP aquatic plant species occur. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species. **Metsulfuron Methyl** • Since the risks associated with using a high boom are unknown, use only a low boom for ground applications of this herbicide within ½ mile of terrestrial TEP plant species or aquatic habitats in which TEP plant species occur. • Do not apply at the typical application rate, by ground or aerial methods, within 900 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species or aquatic habitats in which aquatic TEP species occur. • Do not apply at the maximum application rate, by ground or aerial methods, within ½ mile of terrestrial TEP plant species or aquatic habitats in which aquatic TEP species occur. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species. **Overdrive®** • If using a low boom at the typical application rate, do not apply within 100 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • If using a low boom at the maximum application rate, do not apply within 900 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • If using a high boom, do not apply within 900 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • Do not apply within 25 feet of aquatic habitats where TEP plant species occur. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species. **Picloram** • Do not apply by ground or aerial methods, at any application rate, within ½ mile of terrestrial TEP plant species. • Assess local site conditions when evaluating the risks from surface water runoff to TEP plants located within ½ mile downgradient from the treatment area. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species. **Sulfometuron Methyl** • Do not apply by ground or aerial methods within 1,500 feet of terrestrial TEP species. • Do not apply by ground methods within 900 feet of aquatic habitats where TEP plant species occur, or by aerial methods within 1,500 feet of aquatic habitats where TEP plant species occur. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species. **Tebuthiuron** • If using a low boom at the typical application rate, do not apply within 25 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • If using a low boom at the maximum application rate or a high boom at the typical application rate, do not apply within 50 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • If using a high boom at the maximum application rate, do not apply within 900 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • Do not apply within 25 feet of aquatic habitats where TEP plant species occur. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species.

Plants – cont.	**Triclopyr Acid** • Since the risks associated with using a high boom are unknown, use only a low boom during ground applications of this herbicide within ½ mile of terrestrial TEP plant species. • Since the risks associated with using a high boom are unknown, use only a low boom during ground applications at the maximum application rate of this herbicide within ½ mile of aquatic habitats in which TEP plant species occur. • Do not apply by ground methods at the typical application rate within 300 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • Do not apply by aerial methods at the typical application rate within 500 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species. • Do not apply by ground or aerial methods at the maximum application rate within ½ mile of terrestrial TEP plant species or aquatic habitats in which TEP plant species occur. • If applying to aquatic habitats in which aquatic TEP plant species occur, do not exceed the targeted water concentration on the product label. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species. **Triclopyr BEE** • Since the risks associated with using a high boom are unknown, use only a low boom for ground applications of this herbicide within ½ mile of terrestrial TEP plant species or aquatic habitats in which TEP plant species occur. • Do not apply by ground methods at the typical application rate within 300 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species or aquatic habitats in which TEP plant species occur. • Do not apply by aerial methods at the typical application rate within 500 feet of terrestrial TEP plant species or aquatic habitats in which TEP plant species occur. • Do not apply by ground or aerial methods at the maximum application rate within ½ mile of terrestrial TEP plant species or aquatic habitats in which TEP plant species occur. • Do not use aquatic formulations in aquatic habitats where TEP aquatic plant species occur. • In areas where wind erosion is likely, do not apply within ½ mile of TEP plant species. Treatment plans must also address the presence of and expected impacts on noxious weeds on the project site. These plans must be coordinated with BLM weed experts and/or appropriate county weed supervisors to minimize the spread of weeds. In order to prevent the spread of noxious weeds and other unwanted vegetation in occupied or suitable habitat, the following precautions should be taken: • Cleared areas that are prone to downy brome or other noxious weed invasions should be seeded with an appropriate seed mixture to reduce the probability of noxious weeds or other undesirable plants becoming established on the site. • Where seeding is warranted, bare sites should be seeded as soon as appropriate after treatment, and at a time of year when it is likely to be successful. • In suitable habitat for TEP species, non-native species should not be used for revegetation. • Certified noxious weed seed free seed must be used in suitable habitat, and preference should be given to seeding appropriate plant species when rehabilitation is appropriate. • Straw and hay bales used for erosion control in suitable habitat must be certified weed- and seed-free. • Vehicles and heavy equipment used during treatment activities should be washed prior to arriving at a new location to avoid the transfer of noxious weeds. When BAs are drafted at the local level for treatment programs, additional conservation measures may be added to this list. Where BLM plans that consider the effects of vegetation treatments on TEP plant species already exist, these plans should be consulted, and incorporated (e.g., any guidance or conservation measures they provide) into local level BAs for vegetation treatments.

Species/Site Identification as Listed in the Biological Assessment	Conservation Measure
Aquatic Animals: Conservation Measures for **Site Access and Fueling/Equipment** Maintenance • For treatments occurring in **watersheds** with TEP species or designated or undesignated critical habitat (i.e., unoccupied habitat critical to species recovery):	• Where feasible, access work site only on existing roads, and limit all travel on roads when damage to the road surface will result or is occurring. • Where TEP aquatic species occur, consider ground-disturbing activities on a case by case basis, and implement SOPs to ensure minimal erosion or impact to the aquatic habitat. • **Within riparian areas:** o Do not use vehicle equipment off of established roads. • **Outside of riparian areas:** o Allow driving off of established roads only on slopes of 20% or less. • Except in emergencies, land helicopters outside of riparian areas. • **Within 150 feet of wetlands or riparian areas**, do not fuel/refuel equipment, store fuel, or perform equipment maintenance (locate all fueling and fuel storage areas, as well as service landings outside of protected riparian areas). • Prior to helicopter fueling operations prepare a transportation, storage, and emergency spill plan and obtain the appropriate approvals; for other heavy equipment fueling operations use a slip-tank not greater than 250 gallons; Prepare spill containment and cleanup provisions for maintenance operations. • Do not conduct biomass removal (harvest) activities that will alter the timing, magnitude, duration, and spatial distribution of peak, high, and low flows outside the range of natural variability.
Aquatic Animals: Conservation Measures Related to **Revegetation** Treatments	• **Outside riparian areas:** o Avoid hydro-mulching within buffer zones established at the local level. This precaution will limit adding sediments and nutrients and increasing water turbidity. • **Within riparian areas:** o Engage in consultation at the local level to ensure that revegetation activities incorporate knowledge of site-specific conditions and project design (*not in the BO*).
Aquatic Animals: Conservation Measures Related to **Herbicide Treatments**	• Maintain equipment used for transportation, storage, or application of chemicals in a leak proof condition. • Do not store or mix herbicides, or conduct post-application cleaning within riparian areas. • Ensure that trained personnel monitor weather conditions at spray times during application. • Strictly enforce all herbicide labels. • Do not broadcast spray within 100 feet of open water when wind velocity exceeds 5 mph. • Do not broadcast spray when wind velocity exceeds 10 mph. • Do not spray if precipitation is occurring or is imminent (within 24 hours). • Do not spray if air turbulence is sufficient to affect the normal spray pattern. • Do not broadcast spray herbicides in riparian areas that provide habitat for TEP aquatic species. Appropriate buffer distances should be determined at the local level to ensure that overhanging vegetation that provides habitat for TEP species is not removed from the site. Buffer distances provided as conservation measures in the assessment of effects to plants (Chapter 4 of this BA) and fish and aquatic invertebrates should be consulted as guidance (Table 5-5). (Note: the Forest Service did not determine appropriate buffer distances for TEP fish and aquatic invertebrates when evaluating herbicides in Forest Service ERAs; buffer distances were only determined for non-TEP species). (*not in the BO*). • Do not use diquat, fluridone, terrestrial formulations of glyphosate, or triclopyr BEE, to treat aquatic vegetation in habitats where aquatic TEP species occur or may potentially occur. • Avoid using glyphosate formulations that include R-11 in the future, and either avoid using any formulations with POEA, or seek to use the formulation with the lowest amount of POEA available, to reduce risks to aquatic organisms. • Follow all instructions and SOPs to avoid spill and direct spray scenarios into aquatic habitats. Special care should be followed when transporting and applying 2,4-D, bromacil, clopyralid, diuron, glyphosate, hexazinone, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, picloram, tebuthiuron, and triclopyr. • Do not broadcast spray diuron, glyphosate, picloram, or triclopyr BEE in upland habitats adjacent to aquatic habitats that support (or may potentially support) aquatic TEP species under conditions that would likely result in off-site drift. • In watersheds that support TEP species or their habitat, do not apply bromacil, diuron, tebuthiuron, or triclopyr BEE in upland habitats within ½ mile upslope of aquatic habitats that support aquatic TEP species under conditions that would likely result in surface runoff. • Avoid accidental direct spray and spill conditions to reduce the largest potential impacts. Use the typical application

Aquatic Animals: Conservation Measures Related to **Herbicide Treatments** - cont.	rate, rather than the maximum application rate to reduce risk for most herbicides, where practical (*derived from EIS Mitigating Measures – covers most herbicides rather than the specific ones listed in the EIS*). • Reduce the size of the application area, when possible (*derived from EIS SOPs – used 'minimize' in the EIS*). • Establish appropriate (herbicide specific) buffer zones to downstream waterbodies, habitats, or species/populations of interest (in EIS Mitigating Measures). Buffer distances presented in Table 4 below should be consulted as guidance for all site-specific treatments. Local BLM offices will have to determine buffer zones for active ingredients not listed below in Table 4 (2,4-D, clopyralid, glyphosate, hexazinone, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, picloram and triclopyr) on a site-specific basis (not in BA, SOPs or Mitigating Measures, but okay to include).
Aquatic Animals: Wetland and Riparian Areas	• Minimize the use of terrestrial herbicides (especially bromacil, diuron, and suflometuron methyl) in watersheds with downgradient ponds and streams if potential impacts to aquatic plants exist (*from EIS Mitigating Measures*).
Aquatic Animals: Fish and Other Aquatic Organisms	• Regulate the use of diquat in waterbodies that have native fish and aquatic resources (*from EIS Mitigating Measures*). • Regulate the use of terrestrial herbicides in watersheds, which have characteristics suitable for potential surface runoff, with fish-bearing streams during periods when fish are in life stages most sensitive to the herbicide(s) use (*from EIS Mitigating Measures*). • Establish appropriate herbicide-specific buffer zones to waterbodies, habitats, or fish or other aquatic species of interest (*from EIS Mitigating Measures*). • At the field level, consider effects to listed species, otherwise special status fish and other aquatic organisms when designing treatment programs (*not in BA, SOPs or Mitigating Measures, but okay to include*).
Aquatic Animals: Conservation Measures Related to **Prescribed Fire** Aquatic Animals: Conservation Measures Related to **Prescribed Fire** – cont.	• Conduct prescribed burning only when long-term maintenance of the riparian area is the primary objective, and where low intensity fires can be maintained. • Do not construct black lines, except by non-mechanized methods. • Utilize/create only the following firelines: natural barriers; hand-built lines parallel to the stream channel and outside of buffer zones established at the local level; or hand built lines perpendicular to the stream channel with waterbars and the same distance requirement. • Do not ignite fires using aerial methods. • In forested riparian areas, keep fires to low severity levels to ensure that excessive vegetation removal does not occur. • Do not camp, unless allowed by local consultation. • Have a fisheries biologist determine whether pumping activity can occur in streams with TEP species. • During water drafting/pumping, maintain a continuous surface flow of the stream that does not alter original wetted stream width. • Do not alter dams or channels in order to pump in streams occupied by TEP species. • Do not allow helicopter dipping from waters occupied by TEP species, except in lakes outside of the spawning period. • Consult with a local fisheries biologist prior to helicopter dipping in order to avoid entrainment and harassment of TEP species.
Aquatic Animals: Conservation Measures Related to **Mechanical Treatments**	Note: these measures apply only to treatments occurring in watersheds that support TEP species or in unoccupied habitat critical to species recovery (including but not limited to critical habitat, as designated by USFWS). **Outside riparian areas** in watersheds with TEP species or designated or undesignated critical habitat (i.e., unoccupied habitat critical to species recovery): • Conduct soil-disturbing treatments only on slopes of 20% or less, where feasible. • Do not conduct log hauling activities on native surface roads prone to erosion, where feasible. **Within riparian areas** in these watersheds, more protective measures will be required to avoid negatively affecting TEP species or their habitat: • Do not use vehicles or heavy equipment, except when crossing at established crossings. • Do not remove large woody debris or snags during mechanical treatment activities. • Do not conduct ground disturbing activities (e.g., disking, drilling, chaining, and plowing). • Ensure that all mowing follows guidance to avoid negative effects to streambanks and riparian vegetation and major effects to streamside shade. • Do not use equipment in perennial channels or in intermittent channels with water, except at crossings that already

	exist. • Leave suitable quantities (to be determined at the local level) of excess vegetation and slash on site. • Do not apply fertilizers or seed mixtures that contain chemicals by aerial methods. • Do not apply fertilizer within 25 feet of streams and supersaturated soils; apply fertilizer following labeling instructions. • Do not apply fertilizer in desert habitats. • Do not completely remove trees and shrubs.
Aquatic Animals: Conservation Measures Related to **Biological Control Treatments using Livestock** Aquatic Animals: Conservation Measures Related to **Biological Control Treatments using Livestock** – cont.	For treatments occurring in **watersheds that support TEP species** or in critical habitat: • Where terrain permits, locate stock handling facilities, camp facilities, and improvements at least 300 feet from lakes, streams, and springs. • Educate stock handlers about at-risk fish species and how to minimize negative effects to the species and their associated habitat. • Employ appropriate dispersion techniques to range management, including judicial placement of saltblocks, troughs, and fencing, to prevent damage to riparian areas but increase weed control. • Equip each watering trough with a float valve. **Within riparian areas** of these watersheds, more protective measures are required: • Do not conduct weed treatments involving domestic animals, except where it is determined that these treatments will not damage the riparian system, or will provide long-term benefits to riparian and adjacent aquatic habitats. • Do not locate troughs, storage tanks, or guzzlers near streams with TEP species, unless their placement will enhance weed-control effectiveness without damaging the riparian system. Local BLM offices should design conservation measures for treatment plans using the above conservation measures as guidance, but altering it as needed based on local conditions and the habitat needs of the particular TEP aquatic species that could be affected by the treatments. Locally-focused conservation measures would be necessary to reduce or avoid potential impacts such that a Not Likely to Adversely Affect determination would be reached during the local-level NEPA process. BLM offices that are responsible for the protection of Northwest salmonids are directed to the guidance document: *Criteria for At-Risk Salmonids: National Fire Plan Activities*, Version 2.1 (National Fire Plan Technical Team 2002), which contains detailed instructions for developing suitable conservation measures for these TEP species in conjunction with vegetation treatment programs, and from which many of the above-listed conservation measures were taken.
Terrestrial Animals: Bird Species: • Sand Nesters: o Western Snowy Plover o Piping Plover o Least Tern	• Survey for western snowy plovers, piping plovers, and interior least terns (and their nests) in suitable areas on proposed treatment areas, prior to developing treatment plans. • Do not treat vegetation in nesting areas during the breeding season (as determined by a qualified biologist). • Do not allow human (or domestic animal) disturbance within ¼ mile of nest sites during the nesting period. • Ensure that nest sites are at least 1 mile from downwind smoke effects during the nesting period. • Conduct beachgrass treatments during the plant's flowering stage, during periods of active growth. • Closely follow all application instructions and use restrictions on herbicide labels; in wetland habitats use only those herbicides that are approved for use in wetlands. • Do not use 2,4-D in western snowy plover, piping plover, or interior least tern habitats; do not broadcast spray 2,4-D within ¼ mile of western snowy plover, piping plover, or interior least tern habitat. • Where feasible, avoid use of the following herbicides in western snowy plover and piping plover habitat: clopyralid, diquat, diuron, glyphosate, hexazinone, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, picloram, and triclopyr; in interior least tern habitat avoid the use of clopyralid, glyphosate, hexazinone, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, picloram, and triclopyr. • Do not broadcast spray clopyralid, diquat, diuron, glyphosate, hexazinone, picloram, or triclopyr in western snowy plover or piping plover habitat; do not broadcast spray these herbicides in areas adjacent to western snowy plover or piping plover habitat under conditions when spray drift onto the habitat is likely. • Do not broadcast spray clopyralid, glyphosate, hexazinone, picloram, or triclopyr in interior least tern habitat; do not broadcast spray these herbicides in areas adjacent least tern habitat under conditions when spray drift onto the habitat is likely. • If broadcast spraying imazapyr or metsulfuron methyl in or adjacent to western snowy plover, piping plover, or interior least tern habitat, apply at the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate. • If conducting manual spot applications of glyphosate, hexazinone, or triclopyr to vegetation in western snowy plover, piping plover, or interior least tern habitat, utilize the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate. Additional, project-specific conservation measures would be developed at the local level, as appropriate.

Species/Site Identification as Listed in the Biological Assessment	Conservation Measure
Terrestrial Animals: Bird Species: • Riparian Bird Species: o Least Bell's Vireo, o Inyo California Towhee, o Southwestern Willow Flycatcher	• Conduct surveys prior to vegetation treatments within potential or suitable habitat. • Where surveys detect birds, do not burn, broadcast spray herbicides, use domestic animals to control weeds, or conduct mechanical treatments. • Do not conduct vegetation treatments within ½ mile (or further if deemed necessary to prevent smoke from inundating the nest area) of known nest sites or unsurveyed suitable habitat during the breeding season (as determined by a qualified wildlife biologist). • Adjust spatial and temporal scales of treatments to that not all suitable habitat is affected in any given year. • Following treatments, replant or reseed treated areas with native species, if needed. • Closely follow all application instructions and use restrictions on herbicide labels; in wetland habitats use only those herbicides that are approved for use in wetlands. • Do not use 2,4-D in least Bell's vireo, Inyo California towhee, or southwestern willow flycatcher habitats; do not broadcast spray 2,4-D within ¼ mile of least Bell's vireo, Inyo California towhee, or southwestern willow flycatcher habitat. • Where feasible, avoid use of the following herbicides in least Bell's vireo, Inyo California towhee, and southwestern willow flycatcher habitat: bromacil, clopyralid, diquat, diuron, glyphosate, hexazinone, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, picloram, tebuthiuron, and triclopyr. • Do not broadcast spray clopyralid, diquat, diuron, glyphosate, hexazinone, picloram, or triclopyr in least Bell's vireo or southwestern willow flycatcher habitat; do not broadcast spray these herbicides in areas adjacent to least Bell's vireo or southwestern willow flycatcher habitat under conditions when spray drift onto the habitat is likely. • Do not broadcast spray clopyralid, diquat, glyphosate, hexazinone, picloram, or triclopyr in Inyo California towhee habitat; do not broadcast spray these herbicides in areas adjacent to Inyo California towhee habitat under conditions when spray drift onto the habitat is likely. • If broadcast spraying imazapyr or metsulfuron methyl in or adjacent to least Bell's vireo or southwestern willow flycatcher habitat, apply at the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate. • If broadcast spraying bromacil, diuron, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, or tebuthiuron in or adjacent to Inyo California towhee habitat, apply at the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate. • If conducting manual spot applications of glyphosate, hexazinone, or triclopyr to vegetation in least Bell's vireo, Inyo California towhee, or southwestern willow flycatcher habitat, utilize the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate.
Terrestrial Animals: Bird Species: • California Condor	• In areas where effects to breeding California condors may occur, do not burn until nesting is completed (Dodd 1986). • Restrict human activity within 1.5 miles of California condor nest sites (Snyder et al. 1986). • Do not use 2,4-D in California condor habitats; do not broadcast spray 2,4-D within ¼ mile of California condor habitat. • Where feasible, avoid use of the following herbicides in California condor habitat: bromacil, clopyralid, diquat, diuron, glyphosate, hexazinone, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, picloram, and triclopyr. • Do not broadcast spray clopyralid, diuron, glyphosate, hexazinone, picloram, or triclopyr in California condor habitat; do not broadcast spray these herbicides in areas adjacent to California condor habitat under conditions when spray drift onto the habitat is likely. • If broadcast spraying bromacil, diquat, imazapyr, or metsulfuron methyl in or adjacent to California condor habitat, apply at the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate. • If conducting manual spot applications of glyphosate, hexazinone, or triclopyr to vegetation in California condor habitat, utilize the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate.
Terrestrial Animals: Bird Species: • Mature Forest Nesters: o Marbled Murrelet o Northern Spotted Owl o Mexican Spotted Owl	• Survey for marbled murrelets, northern spotted owls, and Mexican spotted owls (and their nests) on suitable proposed treatment areas, prior to developing treatment plans. • Delineate a 100-acre buffer around nests prior to mechanical treatments or prescribed burns. • Do not allow human disturbance within ¼ mile of nest sites during the nesting period (as determined by a local biologist). • Ensure that nest sites are at least 1 mile from downwind smoke effects during the nesting period. • Protect and retain the structural components of known or suspected nest sites during treatments; evaluate each nest site prior to treatment and protect it in the most appropriate manner. • Maintain sufficient dead and down material during treatments to support spotted owl prey species (minimums would depend on forest types, and should be determined by a wildlife biologist).

	• Do not conduct treatments that alter forest structure in old-growth stands. • Do not use 2,4-D in marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, or Mexican spotted owl habitats; do not broadcast spray 2,4-D within ¼ mile of marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, or Mexican spotted owl habitat. • Where feasible, avoid use of the following herbicides in northern spotted owl and Mexican spotted owl habitat: bromacil, clopyralid, diquat, diuron, glyphosate, hexazinone, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, picloram, and triclopyr. • Where feasible, avoid use of the following herbicides in marbled murrelet habitat: clopyralid, glyphosate, hexazinone, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, picloram, and triclopyr. • Do not broadcast spray clopyralid, glyphosate, hexazinone, picloram, or triclopyr in marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, or Mexican spotted owl habitat; do not broadcast spray these herbicides in areas adjacent to marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, or Mexican spotted owl habitat under conditions when spray drift onto the habitat is likely. • Do not broadcast spray diuron in Mexican or northern spotted owl habitat; do not broadcast spray these herbicides in areas adjacent to Mexican or northern spotted owl habitat under conditions when spray drift onto the habitat is likely. • If broadcast spraying imazapyr or metsulfuron methyl in or adjacent to marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, or Mexican spotted owl habitat, apply at the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate. • If broadcast spraying bromacil or diquat in or adjacent to Mexican or northern spotted owl habitat, apply at the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate.
Terrestrial Animals: Bird Species: • Mature Forest Nesters – cont.	• If conducting manual spot applications of glyphosate, hexazinone, or triclopyr to vegetation in marbled murrelet, northern spotted owl, or Mexican spotted owl habitat, utilize the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate. • Follow all instructions and SOPs to avoid spill and direct spray scenarios into aquatic habitats, particularly marine habitats where murrelets forage for prey. Additional conservation measures would be developed, as necessary, at the project level to fine-tune protection of these species.
Terrestrial Animals: Bird Species: • Bald Eagle	• Do not allow human disturbance within a suitable buffer distance of known bald eagle nest sites during the breeding season (as determined by a qualified wildlife biologist). For active bald eagle nests in open country, buffer distances should be 1 mile. In other habitats, with a shorter line-of-site distance, buffer distances may be reduced, based on consultation with the USFWS. • Do not allow ground disturbing activities within ½ mile of active roost sites year round. • Avoid human disturbance within 1 mile of a winter roost during the wintering period (as determined by a qualified wildlife biologist). • Complete treatment activities that must occur within 1 mile of a winter roost within the hours of 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., during the winter roosting period. • Do not allow helicopter/aircraft activity within 1 mile of bald eagle nest sites or winter roost sites during the breeding or roosting period. • Conduct prescribed burn activities in a manner that ensures that nest and winter roost sites are greater than 1 mile from downwind smoke effects. • Do not cut trees within ¼ mile of any known nest trees. • Do not use 2,4-D in bald eagle habitats; do not broadcast spray 2,4-D within ¼ mile of bald eagle habitat. • Where feasible, avoid use of the following herbicides in bald eagle habitat: bromacil, clopyralid, diquat, diuron, glyphosate, hexazinone, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, picloram, and triclopyr. • Do not broadcast spray clopyralid, diuron, glyphosate, hexazinone, picloram, or triclopyr in bald eagle habitat; do not broadcast spray these herbicides in areas adjacent to bald eagle habitat under conditions when spray drift onto the habitat is likely. • If broadcast spraying bromacil, diquat, imazapyr, or metsulfuron methyl in or adjacent to bald eagle habitat, apply at the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate. • If conducting manual spot applications of glyphosate, hexazinone, or triclopyr to vegetation in bald eagle habitat, utilize the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate.
Species/Site Identification as	

Listed in the Biological Assessment	Conservation Measure
Terrestrial Animals: Mammals: o Pygmy Rabbit	Although only the Columbia Basin Distinct Population Segment of the pygmy rabbit is currently listed, these mitigation measures should be considered for treatments throughout the species' entire range, and implemented as appropriate. • Prior to treatments, survey all suitable habitat for pygmy rabbits. • Address pygmy rabbits in all management plans prepared for treatments within the range of the species' historical habitat. • Do not burn, graze, or conduct mechanical treatments within 1 mile of known pygmy rabbit habitat. • Do not use 2,4-D, diquat, or diuron in pygmy rabbit habitats; do not broadcast spray these herbicides within ¼ mile of pygmy rabbit habitat. • Where feasible, avoid use of the following herbicides in pygmy rabbit habitat: bromacil, clopyralid, fluridone, glyphosate, hexazinone, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, picloram, tebuthiuron, and triclopyr. • Where feasible, spot treat vegetation in pygmy rabbit habitat rather than broadcast spraying. • Do not broadcast spray clopyralid, glyphosate, hexazinone, picloram, or triclopyr in pygmy rabbit habitat; do not broadcast spray these herbicides in areas adjacent to pygmy rabbit habitat under conditions when spray drift onto the habitat is likely. • If broadcast spraying bromacil, imazapyr, fluridone, metsulfuron methyl, or tebuthiuron in or near pygmy rabbit habitat, apply at the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate. • If conducting manual spot applications of bromacil, glyphosate, hexazinone, tebuthiuron, or triclopyr to vegetation in pygmy rabbit habitat, utilize the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate. In addition, project-level conservation measures would also be developed by local BLM offices during the development of NEPA documents for site-specific treatment projects.
Terrestrial Animals: Mammals: o San Joaquin Kit Fox	• Do not use 2,4-D in San Joaquin kit fox habitat; do not broadcast spray 2,4-D within ¼ mile of San Joaquin fox habitat. • Where feasible, avoid use of the following herbicides in San Joaquin kit fox habitat: bromacil, clopyralid, diquat, diuron, glyphosate, hexazinone, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, picloram, tebuthiuron, and triclopyr. • Do not broadcast spray clopyralid, diuron, glyphosate, hexazinone, picloram, or triclopyr in San Joaquin kit fox habitat; do not broadcast spray these herbicides in areas adjacent to San Joaquin kit fox habitat under conditions when spray drift onto the habitat is likely. • If broadcast spraying bromacil, diquat, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, or tebuthiuron in or near northern San Joaquin kit fox habitat, apply at the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate. • If conducting manual spot applications of diuron, glyphosate, hexazinone, tebuthiuron, or triclopyr to vegetation in San Joaquin kit fox habitat, utilize the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate. In addition, the BLM must develop and implement additional conservation measures, as necessary, during project-level analysis at the local level.
Terrestrial Animals: Grassland Ground-Burrowing Mammals: o Kangaroo Rats o Utah Prairie Dog o Black-Footed Ferret	Conservation measures for listed kangaroo rats, Utah prairie dog, or black-footed ferret: • Prior to conducting vegetation treatments, survey areas scheduled to receive treatments for listed kangaroo rats, Utah prairie dogs, and black-footed ferrets. • Incorporate these species and their habitat into management plans developed for treatment activities. • Avoid vegetation treatments during drought conditions. • Where possible, perform treatments during the hibernation period. • Do not use 2,4-D in listed kangaroo rat, Utah prairie dog, or black-footed ferret habitats; do not broadcast spray 2,4-D within ¼ mile of listed kangaroo rat, Utah prairie dog, or black-footed ferret habitat. • Do not use diquat or diuron in listed kangaroo rat or Utah prairie dog habitats; do not broadcast spray these herbicides within ¼ mile of listed kangaroo rat or Utah prairie dog habitat. Additional conservation measures for kangaroo rats and the Utah prairie dog: • Where feasible, avoid use of the following herbicides in listed kangaroo rat and Utah prairie dog habitat: bromacil, clopyralid, fluridone, glyphosate, hexazinone, imazapyr, metsulfuron methyl, picloram, tebuthiuron, and triclopyr. • Do not broadcast spray clopyralid, glyphosate, hexazinone, picloram, or triclopyr in listed kangaroo rat or Utah prairie dog habitat; do not broadcast spray these herbicides in areas adjacent to listed kangaroo rat or Utah prairie dog habitat under conditions when spray drift onto the habitat is likely. • If broadcast spraying bromacil, imazapyr, fluridone, metsulfuron methyl, or tebuthiuron in or near listed kangaroo rat or Utah prairie dog habitat, apply at the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate.

	• If conducting manual spot applications of bromacil, glyphosate, hexazinone, tebuthiuron, or triclopyr to vegetation in listed kangaroo rat or Utah prairie dog habitat, utilize the typical, rather than the maximum, application rate. Individual projects would be subject to review at the local level, during which additional conservation measures could be identified as necessary to protect these species.

APPENDIX 5

Resource	Conservation Measures for Threatened, Endangered (and Sensitive species only where noted)
Vegetation (Sensitive Plants)	A survey or other assessment of all proposed action areas within potential habitat should be made by a botanically qualified biologist, botanist, or ecologist to determine the presence/absence of the species. Establishment of site specific no activity buffers should be made by a qualified botanist, biologist, or ecologist in areas of occupied habitat within the proposed project area. Manual spot treatment may occur within the buffer zones if it is determined by local biologists that this method of herbicide application would not pose risks to TES plant species in the vicinity. Per the proposed action, broadcast spraying may only be done on localized areas within the Milford Flat Fire Rehabilitation Area (FRA). Collection of baseline information on the existing condition of TES plant species and their habitats in the proposed project area should be accomplished. Establishment of pre-treatment monitoring programs to track the size and vigor of TES populations and the state of their habitats should be done. These monitoring programs would help in anticipating the future effects of vegetation treatments on TES plant species. Assessment of the need for site revegetation post treatment to minimize the opportunity for noxious weed invasion and establishment should be conducted. Off highway use of motorized vehicles associated with treatments will be avoided in suitable or occupied habitat. Herbicide treatments will not be conducted in areas where TES plant species may be subject to direct spray by herbicides during treatments. Applicators will review, understand and conform to the "Environmental Hazards" section on herbicide labels. All BLM operating procedures will be followed to avoid herbicide treatments during climatic conditions that would increase the likelihood of spray drift or surface runoff. Terrestrial buffer distances (for broadcast spraying) are one half mile (unless directed otherwise by qualified biologist / botanist) for 2,4-D , Dicamba, Metsulfuron Methyl and Picloram. TES species are not known to exist around aquatic environments in the project area. Additional needed conservation measures may be included as Mitigation Measures.
Wildlife (General)	New infestations of weeds found outside of the core areas shown on Appendix 2 would be treated by hand grubbing methods if they are a manageable size. If the newly discovered infestation is too large, inaccessible, etc. to treat by hand grubbing, newly discovered areas would simply be inventoried and mapped. NEPA analysis and

	treatment of the newly discovered site would be postponed until potential impacts to Threatened, Endangered or Sensitive (TES) species or their habitat could be properly assessed and appropriate mitigation / conservation measures identified.
Wildlife (Southwestern Willow Flycatcher) Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (cont'd)	Conduct surveys prior to vegetation treatments within potential or suitable habitat. Where surveys detect birds, do not broadcast spray herbicides (proposed action allows for broadcast spraying only in Milford Flat FRA). Do not conduct vegetation treatments within ½ mile of known nest sites or unsurveyed suitable habitat during the breeding season (as determined by a qualified wildlife biologist. Closely follow all application instructions and use restrictions on herbicide labels; in wetland habitats use only those herbicides that are approved for use in wetlands. Do not use 2, 4-D in southwestern willow flycatcher habitats; do not broadcast spray 2, 4-D within ¼ mile of southwestern willow flycatcher habitat (broadcast spraying only allowed in the Milford Flat FRA per proposed action). Where feasible, avoid use of metsulfuron methyl and picloram in southwestern willow flycatcher habitat.
Wildlife (California Condor)	Restrict human activity within 1.5 miles of California condor nest sites (Snyder et al., 1986). Do not use 2,4-D in California condor habitats; do not broadcast spray 2,4-D within ¼ mile of California condor habitat (broadcast spraying only allowed in localized areas of the Milford Flat FRA per proposed action). Where feasible, avoid use of metsulfuron methyl in California condor habitat. Under no circumstances should herbicide be applied on or within 25 feet or an animal carcass.
Wildlife (Mexican Spotted Owl)	Survey for Mexican spotted owls (and their nests) on suitable proposed treatment areas, prior to developing treatment plans Do not allow human disturbance with ¼ mile of nest sites during the nesting period (as determined by a qualified biologist). Do not use 2,4-D in Mexican spotted owl (MSO) habitats; do not broadcast spray 2,4-D within ¼ mile of MSO habitat (broadcast spraying is only allowed in localized areas of the Milford Flat FRA per proposed action). Where feasible, avoid use of metsulfuron methyl and picloram in MSO habitat. Follow all instructions and SOPs to avoid spill and direct spray scenarios into aquatic habitats. Additional conservation measures may be included as Mitigation Measures.

Wildlife (Bald Eagle)	Do not allow human disturbance within a suitable buffer distance of known bald eagle nest sites during the breeding season (as determined by a qualified wildlife biologist). For active bald eagle nests in open country, buffer distances should be 1 mile. In other habitats, with a shorter line-of-site distance, buffer distances may be reduced based on consultation with the USF&WS. Do not use 2,4-D in bald eagle habitats; do not broadcast spray 2,4-D within ¼ mile of bald eagle habitat (broadcast spraying is only allowed in localized areas of the Milford Flat FRA per proposed action). Where feasible, avoid use of metsulfuron methyl and picloram in bald eagle habitat.
Wildlife (Pygmy Rabbit)	Although only the Columbia Basin Distinct Population Segment of the pygmy rabbit is currently listed, these mitigation measures should be considered for treatments throughout the species' entire range and implemented as appropriate. Prior to treatment, survey all suitable habitats for pygmy rabbits. Address pygmy rabbits in all management plans prepared for treatments within the range of the species' historical habitat. Do not use 2,4-D in pygmy rabbit habitats; do not broadcast spray this herbicide within ¼ mile of pigmy rabbit habitat (broadcast spraying is only allowed in localized areas of the Milford Flat FRA per proposed action). Where feasible, avoid the use of metsulfuron methyl and picloram in pygmy rabbit habitat. Where feasible, spot treat vegetation in pygmy rabbit habitat rather than broadcast spraying.

Wildlife (Utah Prairie Dog)	Prior to conducting treatments, survey areas scheduled to receive treatments for Utah prairie dogs (UPDs). Do not use 2,4-D in UPD habitats; do not spray 2,4-D within ¼ mile of listed UPD habitat (broadcast spraying is only allowed in localized areas of the Milford Flat FRA per proposed action). Where feasible, avoid use of metsulfuron methyl and picloram in UPD habitat. Additional conservation measures may be identified and incorporated as Mitigating Measures.

United States Department of the Interior

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February 18, 2015

☐ Concur No Effect
☒ Concur Not Likely to Adversely Affect
Mexican Spotted Owl
☐ No Comment
/s/ [illegible]
U.S.F.W.S. - Utah Field Supervisor
Date 2/19/15

MEMORANDUM

To: Larry Crist, Field Office Supervisor

From: Acting Field Manager, Cedar City Field Office Dan Hobbs

Subject: Request for Concurrence on Weed Treatments – Mexican Spotted Owl

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would like to inform you of the proposed 2015 weed treatments within the Cedar City Field Office. Three polygons have been identified for treatment within Mexican spotted owl habitat (Spring Creek). The Spring Creek area is considered a high use area; an inventory in 2014 identified two adult Mexican spotted owls occupying the area. Mexican spotted owls are known to forage within areas that will be targeted for weed removal; however, no weed treatments will occur within the Spring Creek PAC. The nearest weed treatment area within spring creek is approximately 0.06 miles from the known nest site and is located outside of the Protected Activity Center (PAC). Weed treatment is expected to occur one time within the three polygons, May 1 – July 30, 2015. It will take 2-3 individuals approximately one hour to complete treatment within each of the polygons. No chemicals will be used within riparian areas within Mexican spotted owl habitat. All treatments will be hand-cut using a Pulaski. There are areas in close proximity to riparian habitat; however, all treatments would be within upland habitat types. Spring Creek area is within a Wilderness Study Area (WSA) and no motorized vehicles or equipment is authorized.

The BLM has made a determination of "may affect, not likely to adversely affect" the Mexican spotted owl. The BLM is committed to ensure that hand-cutting only is permitted within the three polygons, and activities limited to the hours of 9am – 5pm. Total acreage of the three polygons identified for treatment is 3.2 acres. The BLM will ensure after treatment is completed in the three polygons, those sites will be monitored. The BLM is in the process of developing a Programmatic Noxious and Invasive Weed Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Cedar City Field Office and in the process of consulting on TEC species (i.e. Mexican spotted owl, Utah prairie dog). The goal of the BLM is to avoid further degradation within Mexican Spotted owl habitat.

If you have any questions, please contact Sheri Whitfield, Wildlife Biologist in the Cedar City Field Office at 435-865-3065.

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